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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Cooperative Housing Foundation	2
2.	Cross-Cultural Solutions	5
3.	Focus on the Family Association (Canada)	7
4.	International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists	9
5.	International Rescue Committee	13

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Cooperative Housing Foundation

(Special; 1999)

I. Introduction

a) The mission of Cooperative Foundation also known as CHF International is to be a catalyst for long-lasting positive change in low- and moderate-income communities around the world, helping them to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions.

b) Action: CHF International is successful because it brings together the people, organizations and resources necessary to ensure steady, sustainable change. Our programs ensure that individuals, families and communities:

- Begin to participate in the decisions that impact their lives
- Learn to work together to solve their own problems
- Are provided with the tools and skills needed to escape from the bonds of poverty
- Form productive partnerships that will sustain the cycle of progress
- Develop confidence in their ability to create a brighter, more prosperous future.

CHF International's constitution, affiliations, and programs have not changed in any manner that has had an impact on the CHF International's mission or programmatic design.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

a) CHF International's contribution to the United Nations Economic and Social Council: While CHF International has worked closely with a number of United Nations agencies, CHF has not participated directly with the Economic and Social Council, including its subsidiary bodies, due to the following factors:

- CHF International has not received regular notices of conferences, workshops, or other related Economic and Social Council activities.
- CHF International has been extremely active in developing and expanding its activities in the Middle East, the Americas, Asia, and Europe and the Caucasus. We have almost doubled in size over the course of the last several years.

b) CHF International's cooperation with other United Nations Agencies or other international bodies besides the United Nations Economic and Social Council: CHF International has worked with a number of United Nations agencies and other international agencies, including:

- CHF International received funding from the United Nations Slum Upgrading Facility, along with United States Agency for International Development, for its joint venture with HFC Bank (Ghana) to establish the Boafo Microfinance Services Ltd. Boafo Microfinance Services Ltd.'s mission is to extend services to low- and moderate-income Ghanaian households and lend "a helping hand" in their pursuit of shelter, business, education, and other opportunities.
- Since 2004, CHF has been a leading provider of humanitarian assistance programs in the West Bank and Gaza which provide critical services for thousands of unemployed, vulnerable

families. CHF continues to implement the largest food-for-work and food-for-training program in the region, funded by the United Nations World Food Program. CHF's work covers the entire Gaza Strip and three major governorates of the West Bank. The program provides gainful employment, viable job skills trainings and much needed food aid and has assisted over 22,000 families, or around 150,000 people.

- Funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), CHF is implementing a $340,000 shelter and housing program in Darfur, Sudan.
- Following the earthquake in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provided funding for CHF to construct 435 shelter kits and tool kits to construct durable, semi-permanent shelters for families before the onset of the rainy season. This grant was awarded after CHF successfully completed the construction of more than 1,100 transitional shelters with a grant from the United States Agency of International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).
- CHF International is represented on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's (UNECE) Housing and Urban Management Advisory Network (HUMAN). CHF, through HUMAN, advices UNECE on housing policy, research, and programs, including for all of Europe and North America.

c) CHF International's Contribution towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Ethiopia- Generating Employment and Building Independence (GEBI): The program strategy focuses on sustainable development, including an emphasis on adding value to the full range of agricultural and non-farm products, and exploring the role of markets and marketing in supporting household income. GEBI is targeting 71,500 chronically food-insecure people in seven districts, to increase their self-reliance and improve their access to diverse sources of revenue.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Lebanon/Yemen-Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa (ACCESS-MENA): ACCESS-MENA is a four-year program that specifically aims to decrease the number of young children working and increase their numbers in school. To date, ACCESS-MENA has reached: > 3,737 children in Lebanon; > 1,412 children in Yemen.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equity and Empower Women

Montenegro- Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA): "Roditelji za Ucenike", an NGO in Montenegro, was approached by a group of local artisans who were searching for assistance with organizing and promoting their crafts. The NGO appealed to CHF for assistance. The collaborative program was able to organize the first ever souvenir and handicrafts fair, implemented in Kolasin in 2005.

Colombia/Iraq/Serbia-Women's Involvement in Local Leadership (WILL): This research program was designed to examine the factors believed to contribute to the cultivation of sustainable and credible women's leadership at the local level in conflict- affected communities in Colombia, Iraq and Serbia.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Kenya-Local Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS– Grants Management (LPATH-GM): Working with over 30 local partner organizations, we are improving their technical capacity, to ensure they understand and apply best practices when offering prevention, treatment, and care services to their communities.

Rwanda-Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Program (CHAMP): This community-based program aims to revitalize AIDS activism by building a powerful community based movement bridging HIV/AIDS, human rights, and struggles for social and economic justice, and promoting equitable access to available services.

Ethiopia-Generating Employment and Building Independence (GEBI): CHF is engaging in HIV/AIDS prevention and education activities to raise community awareness, reduce social stigma, and assist local organizations in carrying out HIV/AIDS services. GEBI is targeting the most at-risk groups and people living with HIV and AIDS through health education activities that are disseminating knowledge about transmission, prevention, and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Honduras-Sustainable Improvements to Family Health (SIFH): CHF provided grant funds to 43 government offices to increase the effectiveness of Honduras' primary programs in reproductive health and child survival, infectious disease, health reform, and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. Our work furthered Honduras' vaccine, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis campaigns through the coordination of workshops for officials, nurses, doctors and community leaders, and through the procurement of better equipment for rural clinics and hospitals.

Sudan-Livelihoods and Income Revitalization for Mundri (LIRIM): CHF is working with the New Sudan Women's Federation (NSWF) to build their organizational capacity to expand current activities, including HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. Poverty stricken internally displaced persons (IDPs) who lack basic amenities are now organizing regular meetings to hold HIV/AIDS awareness activities.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Sudan- Berkeley-Darfur Fuel-Efficient Stoves (BDS): In collaboration with the Berkley National Laboratory CHF has been working to deliver the new Berkeley-Darfur stoves, to the displaced persons of the Sudan. The new stoves are approximately 75% more fuel-efficient than the traditional clay stoves. The distribution of these stoves will greatly reduce the amount of fuelwood used for cooking.

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Serbia- Software Development and Support (SDS): This program is a strategic business unit tasked with providing technology solutions to assist the core activities and support the values of the organization. Presently, the SDS unit is responsible for developing and supporting software for CHF International, as well as other clients. Two of SDS's successful enterprises are Web-PRS and Web-Abacus.

Web-based Project Reporting System (Web-PRS): Web-PRS is an extensive information management and reporting system that has been designed to give stakeholders a practical way to track the progress of a broad-based and far-reaching program, like the Community Action Program (CAP) in Iraq. Web-PRS provides a transparent way for implementers and donors to monitor the immediate as well as long-term impact of development programs worldwide.

Web-Abacus: Web-Abacus is a comprehensive Online Loan Portfolio Management System. Web-Abacus is flexible enough to be configured to each individual Microfinance Institution (MFI), and can therefore also grow with the institution. This tool facilitates the day-to-day management of microfinance operations in different programs around the globe, allowing for the effective management of different products and portfolios, while providing the flexibility to generate individual and consolidated reports across all programs.

2. Cross-Cultural Solutions
(Special; 2003)

I. Introduction

Cross-Cultural Solutions (CCS) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) international volunteer organization founded in 1995 and registered in New Rochelle, New York. CCS operates short-term volunteer programs in 12 countries and 19 program locations, which include Costa Rica, Guatemala, Peru, Brazil, the Russian Federation, China, India, Thailand, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, and South Africa. The mission of CCS is to operate volunteer programs around the world in partnership with sustainable community initiatives, bringing people together to work side-by-side while sharing perspectives and fostering cultural understanding. We are an international not-for-profit organization with no political or religious affiliations. The vision of CCS is a world where people value cultures different from their own, are aware of global issues, and are empowered to effect positive change. The values of CCS are shared humanity, respect, and integrity.

Since 1 January 2003, Cross-Cultural Solutions programs have expanded to include the following countries: South Africa, Morocco, and Guatemala. CCS has also expanded offices into the following countries: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, and Australia. CCS has a partnership with CARE, as well as several Corporate Partnerships and University Partnerships that enable these groups to send staff and students to volunteer internationally. CCS has provided volunteer experiences for groups such as Girl Scouts and has collaborated on travel industry developments such as Travelocity's Travel for Good campaign. CCS has been featured on such media

outlets as Time, CNN, Today, New York Times, and Newsweek, and has received awards for video production in travel and internet marketing categories. CCS strives to promote global awareness and volunteerism within these partner industries, as well as within our staff. CCS offers one-week Insight Abroad opportunities to all staff members worldwide. CCS also supports global volunteerism in low-income communities, and has donated 4 programs year-to-date to Summer Search, a national program that challenges low-income high school students to develop character and leadership.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

October 2006: NGO DPI Conference (New York, NY) Conference Attendee

2004: Conference on Indigenous Issues (New York, NY) Conference Attendee

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

- **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger & Goal 2**: Achieve universal primary education: Cross-Cultural Solutions sent volunteers to 12 countries in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa to work with communities in need of support in education and basic needs. CCS volunteers contributed by working in classrooms teaching English to children, working in day care centers for low-income families and helping at homes for the disabled and elderly. In specific placements volunteers work in soup kitchens and provide nutritional guidance (a) 2003: 1,308 volunteers; (b) 2004: 1,983 volunteers; (c) 2005: 2,217 volunteers and (d) 2006: 3,272 volunteers.

- **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:** Approximately 80% of our volunteers are women and the values of our organization promote empowerment. CCS volunteer work side-by-side with local people on community led initiatives to empower women in Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Peru, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

- **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:** CCS provided volunteers to organizations, orphanages and clinics in Brazil, Costa Rica, the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and Thailand to help those who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteers assisted with campaigns, outreach and providing basic needs. CCS facilitates volunteer preparation, ensuring that immunizations are discussed and that volunteers gain further awareness of such diseases.

- **Goal 8: Develop a partnership for global development:** Cross-Cultural Solutions has partnered with the Brookings Institution to collaborate on an initiative to double the number of international volunteers from the United States of America by 2010. Cross-Cultural Solutions is providing support to initiatives such as best practices in the field of international volunteerism, the introduction of a bill to congress to provide fellowships to volunteers who otherwise could not afford it and fall into the category of low-income and data for a longitudinal study of the effects of international volunteerism on the communities and the volunteers.

- **Activities in Support of Global Principles**: CCS hosts Global Summits, which allow our staff members from 16 countries, alumni, prospective volunteers, and friends to reconnect and share best practices and principles to further our mission, vision, and values.

3. Focus on the Family Association (Canada)

(Special; 2003)

Part I. Introduction

i. Aims and Purposes

Focus on the Family Canada exists to provide a voice for all Canadian families on issues affecting family rights and independence. Focus on the Family Canada, an organization founded on the Judeo-Christian principles of society, believes that both families and individuals have the right to choose their own destiny. As such, the organization provides educational resources that relate to economic and social rights of families in Canada and serves as a national advocate for those rights. Focus on the Family Canada is also an advocate for the dignity of the human person and the right of individuals to choose their own destiny in terms of educational, economic and social rights.

ii. Significant Changes

In February 2006 Focus on the Family Canada launched a policy research division called the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada with a focus on research on family related issues.

Part II. Contribution of Focus on the Family (Canada) Association to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

April 2003 — Focus on the Family Canada submitted a report, *Securing our Children's Future*, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Office of the High Commission on Human Rights in response to the Canadian government's report on its adherence to the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

10-13 May 2003 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada participated in the Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on the Family in Curitiba, Brazil.

10-13 June 2003 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada participated in the pre-sessional meeting in Geneva with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in its consideration of the Canadian government's report.

19 September 2003 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada participated in the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous Children in Geneva.

15 September-3 October 2003 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada attended the Thirty-fourth session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva and distributed two additional reports responding to the Canadian government's report on its adherence to the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

a. *Caring for the Children of Canada: Supplementary Report Prepared for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Support of Canada's Section 43 Defence of the use of Reasonable Force.*
b. Put Children First: Marriage and Family in Canada: *Supplementary Report Prepared for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.*

November 2003 — Submitted a written report to the Canadian government providing input for Canada's Fifth Report on its implementation of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.*

1-12 March 2004 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York and released a report, *Gender Analysis and Development: Bringing Men and Boys into the Picture.*

29-30 November 2004 — A representative of Focus on the Family Canada participated in the Doha International Conference for the Family in Doha, Qatar which was welcomed by the General Assembly in its Resolution 58/15 (15 December 2003),

March 2005 — Focus on the Family Canada co-sponsored a briefing on religious freedom at the delegates Dining Room at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

March 2005 — Focus on the Family Canada submitted a report to the United Nations Secretary General's Study on the Violence Against Children, *Benefiting Children through the Family and Law: An Overview of Corporal Punishment in Canada.*

19-23 June 2006 – A representative of Focus on the Family Canada attended the World Urban Forum III side event sponsored by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in Vancouver, Canada.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

On 3 December 2003, Focus on the Family Canada took the initiative to launch the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+10) in Canada. A press conference was held with in Ottawa, Canada with participation from Ms. Najet Karaboni, Senior Interregional Advisor and

UN-NGO-IRENE project Coordinator with the NGO section/Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

iii. Initiatives undertaken by Focus on the Family Canada in support of internationally agreed development goals and global principles

Recognizing the positive contribution strong healthy families make towards reducing poverty, improving educational attainment, providing safe environments and encouraging healthy outcomes, Focus on the Family Canada continues to research and advocate for policies and behaviours that lead to strong healthy families in Canada and, through our global affiliations, around the world. This has been accomplished through public awareness campaigns, appearances before government committees, educational programs, events and resources aimed at parents, and through our radio broadcasts and web sites.

Focus on the Family Canada trained over 1000 parents to more effectively discuss the issue of illicit drugs with their children through its *How to Drug Proof Your Kids* program.

Focus on the Family Canada advocated for tougher national measures to combat child sexual abuse that occurs through on-line activities and so called "sex-tourism", including raising the age of sexual consent from 14 to at least 16 years of age.

Focus on the Family Canada has appreciated the opportunity to contribute to and cooperate with the United Nations and looks forward to such opportunities in the future.

4. International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

(Special; 1995)

PART I. Introduction

i. AIMS AND PURPOSES:

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists was created in 1969 as a membership association of Jewish lawyers and jurists. Its principal purpose is to contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the rule of law in relations among all nations and to promote respect for human rights and the equal right of all peoples and States to live together in peace. The IAJLJ also studies problems and presents issues of particular interest to Jewish communities and the state of Israel. It is thus mainly composed of Jewish members, while also being open to all lawyers and jurists who identify with its objects, irrespective of belief, creed, or any other distinction whatever. Its current membership comprises lawyers and jurists in countries throughout the world, whether at the bar, on the bench, as judicial officials, legal advisers and academics.

The IAJLJ enjoys special consultative status, granted to it in August 1995.

PART II- Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participating in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary…:

During the reporting period one or more permanent representatives of the IAJLJ have personally attended or closely followed proceedings of Social and Economic Council at the Geneva sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), and the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and later the newly established Human Rights Council (HRC) as well as meetings of the Executive Committee of the United nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The IAJLJ's participation featured, *inter alia,* the following statements by its representatives at the UNCHR and later at the HRC, during the period under review:

Written Statement, submitted on 9 February 2003 at the 59th session of the UNCHR, on agenda item No. 6 - Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance.

Oral Statement, delivered on 28 March 2003, at the 59th session of the UNCHR, on agenda item No. 8 — Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

Oral Statement delivered on 9 April 2003 at the 59th session of the UNCHR, on agenda item No. 11 — Civil and political rights (e) — Religious intolerance.

Written statement submitted at the 60th session of the UNCHR, 15 March-23rd April 2004 on item 6 of the provisional agenda.

Statement delivered on 21 March 2005, at the 61th session of the UNCHR, on item 6 of the Agenda — Racism, Racial Discrimination and Defamation in relation to Defamation of Religions and global efforts to combat Racism

Statement delivered on 23 March 2005, at the 61th session of the UNCHR, on item 8 of the Agenda related to the Question of the Violation of Human Rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

On March 8, 2006, the IAJLJ replied to the request of the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and submitted its written statement regarding the resolution presented by the President of the General Assembly on the creation of the proposed HRC to replace the UNCHR

The IAJLJ submitted on 31 October 2006, a comprehensive statement in response to a direct request of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon (dated 22 September 2006) established by the HRC

Statement, delivered on 1 December 2006, at the 3rd session of the HRC.

During 2006, the IAJLJ increased its coverage of meetings in United Nations Headquarters in New York and representatives attended the following meetings: 26 April, Holocaust and Genocide Film

Series, jointly organized by the United Nation's Department for Public Information and the Simon Wiesenthal Center's New York Tolerance Center; 26-27 April, Committee on Information; 28 April, Meeting of the Disarmament Commission; 13 May, Briefing—Holocaust Awareness and Prevention of Genocide, part of the *Holocaust and the United Nations* Outreach Program; 22 May, 294th Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP);8 June, Briefing—Update on the Human Rights Council; 16 August, Briefing—General International Disability Caucus Briefing with Special Focus on the Situation of People with Disabilities in Lebanon and Palestine, hosted by the Arab Organization of Disabled People*; 17 August, Draft Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities - Eighth Session; 4 October, 296th Meeting of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; 16 October, Sixth Committee meeting on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism; 19 October, Third Committee Meeting on the Report of the Special Rapporteur John Dugard on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; 20 October, Second Committee Meeting on Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources; 20 October, Third Committee Meeting on the situation of human rights in the Sudan; 23 October, First Committee Meeting on The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East; 25 October, Third Committee, Discussion with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food; 27 October, Third Committee, Human Rights Questions; 31 October, Fourth Committee, United Nations Relief and Works Agency; Third Committee, 1 November; Fourth Committee, 6 November, Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories—General debate; Special Political and Decolonization Committee, 7-8 November ; Special Political and Decolonization Committee, 7 November, Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories; General Assembly, Plenary, 10 November, Report of the Human Rights Council; Third Committee, 10 November, Report of the Human Rights Council (meetings marked with an asterisk, attended solely for information purposes to record demonstrably false, defamatory and propagandistic assertions for subsequent refutation as necessary and appropriate). In addition, the IAJLJ New York representative attends monthly meetings of United Nations officials with a selected number of representatives of Jewish organizations affiliated with the United Nations. Some examples of past meetings: Edward Mortimer, Director of Communication in the office of Secretary General Kofi Annan (6 December 2006) and Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of NGO's Section in Department of Public Information (4 October 2006).

ii) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies:** The IAJLJ met the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights (AHC), Mr. Bertrand Ramcharan, regarding the question of *Measures to Combat anti-Semitism*, on 15 January and 8 June 2004, in Geneva, Switzerland, and a written recommendation was submitted by the IAJLJ to the office of the AHC.

iii) **Activities in support of Global Principles**: During the review period, the IAJLJ was involved in several issues relating to combating Antisemitism and other forms of racism. Such activities included: correspondence with the competent authorities of the Russian Federation regarding investigation initiated by Moscow prosecutors, into the false and libelous allegation concerning a 16th century code

of ancient Jewish religious laws, incites national and religious hatred (2005); Resolution by the IAJLJ, submitted to the Secretary General, dealing with the statement publicly made by the Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on 26 October 2005, that Israel should be wiped off the map (2005); Statement Concerning the Prosecution of David Irving, a notorious Holocaust denier, in Austria (2006); Preparing and initiating an internationally disseminated paper, submitted to major United Nations organs and world media, calling to the referral of Iranian President Ahmadinejad on the charge of Incitement to commit genocide (2006); Initiating and sponsoring an independent research document that compiled and recorded the names and representative personal stories of colleagues who lost their profession, their life work and, in many cases — their lives, during the Holocaust in Hungary (2006).

Additionally, the IAJLJ holds annual international conferences and issues a quarterly periodical entitled JUSTICE, which is distributed to all its members worldwide, as well as to diplomats, members of national legislatures, to legal libraries, to United Nations bodies and to many NGOs. JUSTICE also appears on the IAJLJ website. At its conferences and in its publication, the IAJLJ regularly features legal issues considered by United Nations organs as well as human rights and humanitarian law related themes. Statements made by representatives of the IAJLJ as observers attending United Nations bodies are often published and discussed in issues of JUSTICE. Articles appearing in JUSTICE during the reported period include, *inter alia*, the following:

The Role of a Supreme Court in a Democracy and the Fight against Terrorism, by President of the Supreme Court of Israel, Prof. Aharon Barak; *International Terrorism: An Israeli and a Jewish Perspective*, by former head of Israeli Mosad, Mr. Efraim Halevy; *Respecting Human Rights in the War against Terror: The American Perspective* by Prof. Ruth Wedgwood; *"We Must Gear Up to Win the War against the Terrorist Threat"* by Minister of Justice of France, Mr. Dominique Perben; *Human Rights and the New Anti-Jewishness*, by Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Prof. Irwin Cotler; *The Role of a Judge in a Democracy*, by President of the Supreme Court of Israel, Prof. Aharon Barak; *The Exposure of the Free World to Terrorism Motivated International Litigation*, by the Israeli Minister of Justice, Mr. Joseph Lapid; *Are There Viable Solutions to the Palestinian Refugee Problem?* By Prof. Ruth Lapidoth; *The Use of the Claim of Israel as a War Zone for not Returning Abducted Children under the Hague Convention*, by Irit Kohn; *Can Nazi War Criminals Be Prosecuted in the 21st Century?* by Efraim Zuroff; *Human Rights Enforcement in Israel* by Asher Maoz; *France and the fight against anti-Semitism*, by French ambassador to Israel Gérard Araud; *Britain and the fight against anti-Semitism, British* ambassador to Israel Simon McDonald; *Law, Rights and the French Experience*, by Yves Bot; *The Belgian Law of Universal Jurisdiction Put to the Test*, by Michèle Hirsch and Nathalie Kumps.

5. International Rescue Committee

(Special; 1999)

Part I: Introduction

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is a global humanitarian aid organization that serves refugees and communities victimized by oppression or violent conflict worldwide. Founded in 1933, the IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is expressed in our efforts in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance, and advocacy. For more than 75 years, the IRC has been a leader in humanitarian relief. IRC mobilizes quickly in crises bringing sustained support to regions torn apart by violence and deprivation. IRC provides a new start in the United States for resettled refugees and advocates on behalf of the displaced, addressing the root causes of violence and standing up for the world's most vulnerable populations.

IRC headquarters are based in New York, Washington DC, London, Brussels, and Geneva, Switzerland. IRC's resettlement programs stretch across the United States of America in 14 States and 17 cities. Currently, IRC's field offices are in the following regions of the world: African Great Lakes, Asia, Caucasus, Horn of Africa, Middle East, South America, and West Africa.

IRC currently employs 9,000 staff worldwide most of whom are refugees, Internally Displaced Persons or nationals of the countries we work in.

IRC builds on our decades of experience in delivering aid and development assistance to war-torn societies to ensure that our work is effective as possible. IRC programs span life-saving interventions during crisis to longer-term reconstruction after conflict. IRC has a range of program interventions that assist war-affected individuals and families survive a crisis with dignity and rebuild their lives and communities by promoting social cohesion and strengthening key institutions of governance. Typically, IRC works with conflict-affected communities for a minimum of ten years, assisting them in recognizing and promoting rights, opening up participation for all groups, and building strong partnerships and sustainable capacity for lasting peace and stability.

IRC maintains the capacity to respond rapidly to complex humanitarian emergencies — quickly mobilizing resources to ensure skilled teams arrive early in a crisis and start delivering vital programs. As the situation stabilizes, IRC moves into partnership with local civil society groups, government institutions, and commerce to assist in return, reintegration and reconstruction. This field mobilization capacity is backed up with in-depth technical expertise, a robust global management structure, and effective advocacy. Some highlights of IRC's response capacity include:

- 17-member Emergency Response Team, able to immediately mobilize key personnel in times of crisis so that the life-saving needs of displaced and war-affected populations are met quickly
- Roster of skilled technical and managerial staff, able to be deployed quickly to back up the Emergency Response Team and provide additional response capacity

- Logistics structure, with a central Logistics team and a regional hub based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, able to support field logistics staff in getting programs established and running smoothly
- Wide range of in-house expert technical assistance, able to support field programs in initial emergency, protracted emergency, and post-conflict development phases, providing access to advice on health, child and youth protection and development, alleviation of gender-based violence, governance and rights, and economic recovery and development
- Commitment to learning and improvement, with a specialized Research, Evaluation & Learning unit focused on support in monitoring and evaluation, and a Post-Conflict Development Initiative, analyzing the changing dynamics of international community engagement with post-conflict societies and supporting the strategic development of IRC programs
- Commitment to staying the course with war-affected societies, working alongside and strengthening local capacity from emergency to the threshold of longer-term development, peace and stability

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The work of the IRC is closely aligned with the mandate, objectives, and priorities of the United Nations and interacts with many domains within the United Nations system. This includes working with United Nations funds, specialized agencies, and programs in humanitarian operations and seeks to influence the work of member states of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Security Council, through participation in major conferences, consultations, and other United Nations meetings.

As a result of,the increasing convergence and compatibility of IRC's mandate with the mission of the United Nations, in the summer of 2005, IRC created a new staff advocacy position, Director of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Liaison, that is devoted to collaborating with the United Nations on many shared concerns and issues related to humanitarian situations and topics of global peace and security. This position is now an ongoing function within IRC's advocacy efforts and an integral part of several NGO networks and campaigns that collaborate with the United Nations on various situations of armed conflict, political emergencies, and disasters.

IRC participated in a number of United Nations consultation processes, conferences, meetings and panels related to UN-Civil Society interests as well as ECOSOC conferences and its subsidiary bodies. IRC has met personally with the United Nations' Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland on Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo and with Sir John Holmes on Iraq refugees and Darfur to advocate on behalf of populations in extremis. IRC has met on a couple of occasions with Secretary General Kofi Annan advocating on behalf of Darfur and Secretary General Ban Ki-moon related to the Sudan and the creation of an African Union – United Nations Hybrid Force.

IRC participates on the NGO Working Group on the Security Council together with representatives of other NGOs and meets regularly with Security Council Ambassadors and senior United Nations officials. IRC participated in informal meetings and formal consultations and Arria-

style meetings related to Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, related to the Protection of Civilians in Conflict, the crisis in Darfur, Resolution 1663 on Northern Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the renewal of MONUC's mandate.

IRC participates in weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), chaired by the office of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Similar meetings are held in Geneva, Switzerland with International Council of Voluntary Agencies and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), an alliance of humanitarian aid and relief organizations. Over the past several years, IRC participated and co-chaired InterAction's Disaster Response Committee and the Humanitarian Policy and Practice Committee and regularly contributes to this forum.

On numerous occasions, IRC held meetings with representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations specialized agencies, and Member States both in New York, United States and Geneva, Switzerland in an effort to improve the humanitarian response for specific crises.

IRC is also actively engaged in the process of humanitarian reform at the United Nations. IRC collaborates with the Humanitarian Reform Unit (based in Geneva, Switzerland) and also contributes staff time to the Global Cluster Working Group in the cluster activity groups of Health, Water/Sanitation, Child Protection, Protection, Camp Coordination & Camp Management, and Education. IRC also contributes one of our Trustees to the United Nations' Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF) Advisory Board. IRC also convenes an internal working group to coordinate and synchronize its diverse efforts in supporting Humanitarian Reform. IRC published a Commentary in InterAction's Monday Developments October 2005 issue criticizing the role-out of the Cluster Approach. Between 10-20 February 2006, IRC participated in the United Nations IASC's Real-Time Evaluation of the implementation of the Cluster Approach during the South Asia Earthquake in Pakistan.

IRC also hosts and chairs the Sudan NGO Working Group which is involved in liaison and advocacy activities between the United Nations Security Council and 19 NGOs based in New York, United States. IRC is also a member of the Northern Uganda Working Group, Democratic Republic of Congo Working Group, and the newly-formed Iraq Working Group. These effective NGO networks have the responsibility to influence policy decision and liaison with the United Nations Security Council and its member states.

IRC is also an active member of the UNHCR Partnerships Working Group hosted by InterAction. IRC participates as a delegate member with the InterAction Delegation to UNHCR's Executive Committee and regularly attends Annual NGO Consultations in Geneva, Switzerland, each year. IRC hosted on-site presentations by UNHCR's High Commissioner, Antonio Guterres, in 2006 and again in 2007.